

Case 3265

Lathrobium geminum* Kraatz, 1857 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence over *L. volgensis* Hochhuth, 1851 and *L. boreale* Hochhuth, 1851; *L. volgensis*: proposed precedence over *L. boreale

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Abstract. This application is brought to the Commission under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code. Four names (*Lathrobium bicolor* Heer, 1839, *L. boreale* Hochhuth, 1851, *L. volgensis* Hochhuth, 1851 and *L. geminum* Kraatz, 1857) have been applied validly or invalidly to a species of rove beetle (family STAPHYLINIDAE). *Lathrobium bicolor* Heer, 1839 is an invalid name as it is a junior primary homonym of *L. bicolor* Gravenhorst, 1802. *Lathrobium volgensis* is an invalid name because (as a result of a First Reviser's action) it is a junior synonym of *L. boreale*, but it has had more usage than *L. boreale*. To stabilize the name of this rove beetle, it is proposed that the widely used name *L. geminum* be given precedence over the less well used, but senior, names *L. boreale* and *L. volgensis*, whenever it and either of the senior names are considered to be synonyms. It is also proposed that *L. volgensis* be given precedence over the less well used, but senior, name *L. boreale*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; *Lathrobium boreale*; *Lathrobium volgensis*; *Lathrobium geminum*; rove beetles.

1. Three names (*Lathrobium bicolor* Heer, 1839 (p. 240), *L. boreale* Hochhuth, 1851 (p. 41), *L. volgensis* Hochhuth, 1851 (p. 42)) have been applied at various times (either validly or invalidly) to the species of rove beetle (family STAPHYLINIDAE) that was named *Lathrobium geminum* by Kraatz in 1857 (p. 673). The oldest name, *L. bicolor* Heer, 1839, is invalid because it is a junior primary homonym of *L. bicolor* Gravenhorst, 1802 (p. 179; currently *Hommaeotarsus bicolor*). Since 1868 *L. bicolor* Heer has been cited as a synonym of *Lathrobium boreale* Hochhuth, 1851 (see Gemminger & Harold, 1868, p. 609) or *L. geminum* Kraatz, 1857 (see Fauvel, 1873, p. 343).

2. *Lathrobium boreale* Hochhuth, 1851 was considered to be valid until 1998. However confusion over the use of *Lathrobium boreale* Thomson, 1860 (p. 198) and *L. boreale* Hochhuth, 1851 caused Assing & Zerche (1998, p. 136) to cite, for the first time, the Hochhuth name as a synonym of *L. volgensis* Hochhuth when it was the Thomson name that had been cited as a synonym of *L. volgensis* (see Burakowski et al., 1979, p. 241; Boháč, 1986, p. 380). Probably as a result of this misunderstanding only 4 authors in 7 works since 1992 have cited *L. boreale* Hochhuth as valid (the Commission Secretariat holds these usage references).

3. Most authors (see Kraatz, 1867, p. 414; Gemminger & Harold, 1868, p. 609; Gusarov, 1992, p. 784) cited *L. volgensis* Hochhuth, 1851 as a variety or synonym of *L. boreale* Hochhuth, 1851 following the action of the First Reviser (Fauvel, 1865, p. 16; also see Article 24.2), or as a synonym of *L. geminum* Kraatz (see for example Ganglbauer, 1895, p. 511; Pope, 1977, p. 27; the Commission Secretariat holds a list of other usage references). Recently (see Burakowski et al., 1979, p. 241), *L. volgensis* was resurrected to replace *L. geminum*, and in the last 50 years it has been cited as a valid name in 28 works by 23 authors (the Commission Secretariat holds these usage references).

4. *Lathrobium geminum* Kraatz has a long history of use as a valid name, but has been invalidly cited as a senior synonym of *L. boreale* Hochhuth or *L. volgensis* (the Commission Secretariat holds these usage references). In the last 50 years, *L. geminum* has been cited as the valid name in at least 37 works by 33 authors (the Commission Secretariat holds these usage references).

5. As has been shown in paras. 1–4 above, the nomenclature of this rove beetle species is confusing and unstable because four names have been applied to the species in the last 50 years. Twenty-five of the references that cite *L. volgensis* as the valid name were published in the last 16 years; prior to 1953 the name was unused. *Lathrobium boreale* Hochhuth, the name that actually has validity for this species under the provisions of the Code (see Article 24.2), has been used only a few times in the last 50 years. *Lathrobium geminum*, on the other hand, has been used by many authors in many works since 1857 and was used as recently as 2001 by Tamutis & Zolubas (p. 67). To conserve the widespread usage of *L. geminum*, this case is submitted to the Commission under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 to give it precedence over its supposed synonyms. Full suppression of names is not proposed in case future work reveals that more than one rove beetle species is involved in what we currently understand to be a single species.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary power:

- (a) to give the name *geminum* Kraatz, 1857, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium geminum*, precedence over the names *boreale* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium boreale*, and *volgensis* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium volgensis*, whenever it and either of the others are considered to be synonyms;
- (b) to give the name *volgensis* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium volgensis*, precedence over the name *boreale* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium boreale*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:

- (a) *geminum* Kraatz, 1857, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium geminum*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the names *boreale* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium boreale*, and *volgensis* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium volgensis*, whenever it and either of the others are considered to be synonyms;

- (b) *volgense* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium volgense*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *boreale* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium boreale*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms and that it is not to be given priority over *geminum* Kraatz, 1857, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium geminum*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (c) *boreale* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium boreale*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the names *geminum* Kraatz, 1857, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium geminum* and *volgense* Hochhuth, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium volgense*, whenever it and either of the others are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *bicolor* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Lathrobium bicolor* (a junior homonym of *Lathrobium bicolor* Gravenhorst, 1802).

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